

Long. from head to apex of elytra 20 lines; max. lat. 12 lines.

Hab. British East Africa.

Allied to *Golianthus Fornassinii*, Westw., from which it differs by the much more produced head, the bridge-like horn, with its broad and triangular base, the longer and more attenuated scutellum, and the three spines to the lateral margin of the anterior femora, &c.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

The Students' Flora of New Zealand and the outlying Islands. By THOMAS KIRK, F.L.S. Wellington, N.Z.: J. Mackay, Government Printer. 1899. Super Royal Svo, pp. vi, 408.

WE have in this fragment the last work on which the late Professor Kirk was engaged at the time of his lamented death in March 1898, being the whole of the material he had put into the hands of the printer. It is well known that he had been occupied on an account of the flora of his adopted country for many years, and no better man could have undertaken it. The hope is expressed in the Introduction that the completion may be entrusted to other hands, and if the author's notes are sufficiently brought together it may be accomplished by his son.

The Government printers have done their part well, sundry small typographical errors being no doubt due to the fact that the author could not correct the proof himself. Besides the Errata set out on p. 384 (which may be considered as corrected), the most important error noted by us in glancing through the volume is on page 72, where the reference to *Gayia Lyallii*, "J. E. Baker . . . 37," should read "E. G. Baker . . . 137," while on page 379, in the sixth line, the first two letters have dropped out from DICOTYLEDONS. Again, under the genera *Azorella* and *Helichrysum* there are references given which are entirely misleading as they stand; it is also unfortunate, too, that the author should have preferred to cite Allan Cunningham's paper by its title as "Præcursores," instead of referring to its proper place in the 'Annals of Natural History,' ser. 1, iv. (1840), where the page should be cited instead of the running number of the plants; this could have been supplied from the 'Index Kewensis,' which the author has employed elsewhere.

Turning to the scientific points of interest in the volume, we note that a new genus, *Huttoniella*, is established for four species of *Carmichaelia*, on account of the pods being indehiscent, the seeds not exceeding three in number, and the radicle conduplicate. Furthermore, the genus *Hoheria* is retained for the original species, *H. populnea*, A. Cunn.; *Shawia paniculata*, Forst., is re-established,

the author considering that Bentham and Hooker had suppressed it from a mistaken idea as to the constancy of its characters, and *Raoulia* is retained solely for convenience.

Altogether about 950 species are enumerated, of which 262, or nearly two sevenths of the total number, are introduced plants, which are especially numerous in Leguminosæ, including 7 species of *Medicago*, 13 of *Trifolium*, and 6 of *Vicia*; 49 plants are described as new, and a dozen are transferred to different genera.

The volume embraces the first half of the whole phanerogamic flora, from Ranunculaceæ to Compositæ inclusive, with a glossary of terms, a synopsis of the work, and two indexes. Apart from the shape, which is a little awkward for use, we can only express our pleasure at so much of the New Zealand flora being issued and brought down to the present time, the admirable handbook of Sir Joseph Hooker having long since been out of print.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Scriptotricha or *Paracantha* ?

SEVERAL years ago, when resident in Colorado, the writer found a Trypetid fly breeding in the heads of thistles. A specimen was sent to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and was identified as *Scriptotricha culta*, under which name I published an account of it in the 'Sixth Report of the Colorado Biological Association,' Jan. 16, 1889. The fly and its habits were there described in a manner sufficient for recognition. In *Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc.* xx. p. 369 (1893), the insect was again referred to as *Scriptotricha culta* (Wied.).

In *Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, Dec. 1899, Mr. D. W. Coquillett proposes the name *Paracantha*, with the *Carphotricha culta* (Wied.) as the type.

On looking into the matter I found no mention of *Scriptotricha* in the literature, except in the places just cited, and concluded that it must have been a MS. name. Mr. Coquillett, at my request, has been so kind as to investigate its history, and he finds that the fly I sent in was identified by the late Mr. Linell as *Carphotricha culta*, but Mr. Pergande misread the name as *Scriptotricha culta*, and in the latter form it was sent to me.

Now the question is, will *Scriptotricha* hold, and if so, who is its author? It was published in connexion with a description, and would be valid but for the fact that it originated in a mistake. I am inclined to consider, on the whole, that it will rank with misprints, and the name *Paracantha* will apply to the fly*.

In any case, this explanation seems necessary, to avoid future misunderstandings.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Mesilla Park, New Mexico, U.S.A.,

Jan. 27, 1900.

* [I entirely agree with Professor Cockerell, and am glad that he has put the matter on record.—C. DAVIES SHERBORN.]